

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/872,205	LI, BAOXIN	
	Examiner Amir Alavi	Art Unit 2621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to The Amendment received 26 October 2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8 and 43-66 (now renumbered as 1-32).
3. The drawings filed on 31 May 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 20010924
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

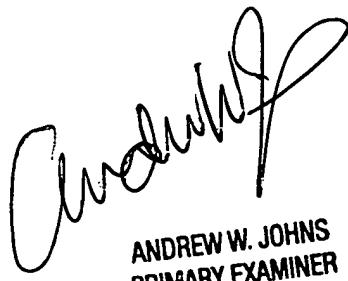
➤ The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention is directed to a method of image processing and a method of replacing an image background in a video sequence. Independent claim 1, identifies the uniquely distinct feature, "for revising a probability for an input pixel according to a probability that a neighboring pixel is a pixel of one of a background and a foreground and a relationship of said input pixel and a pixel structure included in said image"; Independent claim 43, identifies the uniquely distinct feature, "for revising a probability for an input pixel according to a membership of said input pixel in a pixel structure and a probability that a neighboring pixel is a pixel of one of a background and a foreground and substituting a new background pixel for a spatially corresponding input pixel classified as a background pixel" ; Independent claim 59, identifies the uniquely distinct feature, "for revising a background reference pixel if a revised classification of a spatially corresponding input pixel classifies an input pixel as a background pixel and substituting a new background pixel for said input pixel if said input pixel is classified as a pixel of said background". The closest prior art, Korn (USPN 5,781,198), discloses

wherein an image mask is generated representing the similarities and differences between the actual background image and the current image, while a new image is generated in response to the image mask and contains portions of the current image and portions of the replacement background image; while Rosenberg (USPN 6,798,897 B1), discloses real time image registration, motion detection and background replacement using discrete local motion estimation, either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render the above underlined limitation obvious.

- Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

- Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amir Alavi whose telephone number is 703-306-5913.
- The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu.. 8:00 am thru 6:30pm.If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Bhavesh Mehta can be reached on 703-308-5246.
- The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.
- For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



ANDREW W. JOHNS
PRIMARY EXAMINER

AA
Group Art Unit 2621
01 March 2005